

April 6, 2004

SUBJECT: Revised USDA Form for Program Applicants

TO: Rural Development State Directors  
Administrators  
Deputy Administrators

FROM: Gilbert Gonzalez  
Acting Under Secretary  
Rural Development

In a memorandum dated July 23, 2003, I informed you of a new requirement, applicable to nonprofit grant applicants only, the **USDA Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants**. The form was developed to assist the Federal government in ensuring that all qualified grant applicants, small or large, non-religious or faith-based, have an equal opportunity to compete for Federal funding.

The form has been revised (copy enclosed) to accommodate specific applicant and program detail. Upon receipt of a completed survey, separate it from the application and track accordingly. Information provided on this form will not be considered in any way in making funding decisions and will not be included in the Federal grants database.

Effective immediately, grant, direct loan, and guaranteed loan applicants that are nonprofit private organizations (not including private universities) are to complete and submit this revised form with their application. This form, will soon to be available online from the USDA eForms Web site listed as Survey On Ensuring Equal Opportunity For Applicants. Please continue tracking applications by faith-based and community organizations.

You may direct inquiries regarding Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to Ms. Juliet McCarthy, (202) 720-3631, [Juliet.McCarthy@usda.gov](mailto:Juliet.McCarthy@usda.gov) or to Mr. Carlton Lewis, (202) 692-0097, [Carlton.Lewis@usda.gov](mailto:Carlton.Lewis@usda.gov).

Enclosures

EXPIRATION DATE:  
April 30, 2005

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:  
Administrative/Other Programs

# SURVEY ON ENSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR APPLICANTS

OMB No. 1890-0014 Exp. 1/31/2006

**Purpose:** The Federal government is committed to ensuring that all qualified applicants, small or large, non-religious or faith-based, have an equal opportunity to compete for Federal funding. In order for us to better understand the population of applicants for Federal funds, we are asking nonprofit private organizations (not including private universities) to fill out this survey.

Upon receipt, the survey will be separated from the application. Information provided on the survey will not be considered in any way in making funding decisions and will not be included in the Federal grants database. While your help in this data collection process is greatly appreciated, completion of this survey is voluntary.

**Instructions for Submitting the Survey:** If you are applying using a hard copy application, please place the completed survey in an envelope labeled "Applicant Survey." Seal the envelope and include it along with your application package. If you are applying electronically, please submit this survey along with your application.

**Applicant's (Organization) Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's DUNS Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grant (or Loan) Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CFDA Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Does the applicant have 501(c)(3) status?

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. How many full-time equivalent employees does the applicant have? (*Check only one box.*)

☐ 3 or Fewer

☐ 15-50

☐ 4-5

☐ 51-100

☐ 6-14

☐ over 100

3. What is the size of the applicant's annual budget?  
(*Check only one box.*)

☐ Less Than \$150,000

☐ \$150,000 - \$299,999

☐ \$300,000 - \$499,999

☐ \$500,000 - \$999,999

☐ \$1,000,000 - \$4,999,999

☐ \$5,000,000 or more

4. Is the applicant a faith-based/religious organization?

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. Is the applicant a non-religious community-based organization?

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. Is the applicant an intermediary that will manage the grant on behalf of other organizations?

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. Has the applicant ever received a government grant or contract (Federal, State, or local )?

☐ Yes

☐ No

8. Is the applicant a local affiliate of a national organization?

☐ Yes

☐ No

## **Survey Instructions on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants**

**Provide the applicant's (organization) name and DUNS number and the grant name and CFDA number.**

1. 501(c)(3) status is a legal designation provided on application to the Internal Revenue Service by eligible organizations. Some grant programs may require nonprofit applicants to have 501(c)(3) status. Other grant programs do not.
2. For example, two part-time employees who each work half-time equal one full-time equivalent employee. If the applicant is a local affiliate of a national organization, the responses to survey questions 2 and 3 should reflect the staff and budget size of the local affiliate.
3. Annual budget means the amount of money your organization spends each year on all of its activities.
4. Self-identify.
5. An organization is considered a community-based organization if its headquarters/service location shares the same zip code as the clients you serve.
6. An "intermediary" is an organization that enables a group of small organizations to receive and manage government funds by administering the grant on their behalf.
7. Self-explanatory.
8. Self-explanatory.

### **Paperwork Burden Statement**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1890-0014. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average five (5) minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. **If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to:** U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651.

**If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to:** Joyce I. Mays, Application Control Center, U.S. Department of Education, 7<sup>th</sup> and D Streets, SW, ROB-3, Room 3671, Washington, D.C. 20202-4725